

## WHAT IS CLAIMED:

1. A computer architecture for tracking the status of a securities trade, said architecture comprising:
  - a node including;
    - at least one buy side computer associated with a party desiring to purchase securities and capable of transmitting messages related to a trade;
    - at least one sell side computer associated with a party desiring to sell securities and capable of transmitting messages related to a trade; and
    - a communication channel coupling said node with said buy side computer and said sell side computer;
  - wherein said node includes a message broker server and a database, said message broker server being operative to monitor messages transmitted by said buy side computer and said sell side computer and to determine a present state of a trade based on the content of the messages and to store the present state in said database.
2. An architecture as recited in claim 1, wherein the state of a particular trade stored in said database is updated in response to each transmission of a message related to the particular trade.
3. An architecture as recited in claim 1, wherein said at least one buy side computer comprises a server associated with a securities broker.
4. An architecture as recited in claim 1, wherein said at least one buy side computer comprises a server associated with an institutional investor.
5. An architecture as recited in claim 1, wherein said at least one sell side computer comprises a server associated with an exchange.